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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/488,578	01/21/2000	Robert J. Snyder	1752.0010002	4622

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JOSEPH J. LAKS, VICE PRESIDENT
THOMSON LICENSING LLC
PATENT OPERATIONS
PO BOX 5312
PRINCETON, NJ 08543-5312

EXAMINER

HUYNH, BA

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2179

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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10/12/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/488,578

Applicant(s)

SNYDER ET AL.

Examiner

Ba Huynh

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 August 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-35 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-35 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Additional Information

The applicant's indication that the copy of source code of the invention showing the development of the invention during 1997 can not be located is noted. The applicant's request that prosecution continues to proceed is also noted.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1-35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) based upon a public use or sale of the invention as evidenced by the Alex Holtz declaration. Disclosed in the declaration are numerous marketing activities by the applicants since 1996 which bring the claimed inventions within the scope of a bar to patenting under 35 USC 102(b), including:

1996: graphically disclosed the invention at the NAB 96 trade show.

4/1997: Demonstrated the first prototype, distributed brochures, market exploitation, proposed price, list of potential beta sites was kept, among which is the Rainbow Media Group. All at the NAB 97.

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Sometime after the NAB 97: discussed sale with price to public, including the Rainbow Media Group.

At Infocom tradeshow, repeated the same activities as with the NAB 97.

10/1997: Disclosed the product (**with significant source codes**), distributed brochures describing features and functions of the products at Telecom 97 tradeshow. Offered sale with price to public, including Rainbow Media Group. Capable and ready for taking purchase order.

12/19/97: Signed a sale contract with Rainbow Media Group.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 1/12/06 with respect to the 102(b) rejection based on public sale have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant's arguments with respect to the 102(e) rejection based on Parks have been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejection has been withdrawn.

REMARKS:

It has been held that if one discloses his or her own work more than 1 year before the filing of the patent application, that person is barred from obtaining a patent. In re Katz, 687 F.2d 450, 454, 215 USPQ 14, 17 (CCPA 1982). The 1-year time bar is measured from the U.S. filing date. Thus, applicant will be barred from obtaining a patent if the public came into possession of the invention on a date before the 1-year grace period ending with the U.S. filing date. In this case the filing date of this application is December 18, 1998. It does not matter how the public came into possession of the invention. Public possession could occur by a public use, public sale, a publication, a

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patent or any combination of these. The proper test for the public use prong of the § 102 (b) statutory bar is whether the purported use: (1) was accessible to the public; or (2) was commercially exploited. Evidences of commercial activities include:

- (A) Preparation of various contemporaneous "commercial" documents, e.g., orders, invoices, receipts, delivery schedules, etc.;
- (B) Preparation of price lists (*Akron Brass Co. v. Elkhart Brass Mfg. Co.*, 353 F.2d 704, 709, 147 USPQ 301, 305 (7th Cir. 1965) and distribution of price quotations (*Amphenol Corp. v. General Time Corp.*, 158 USPQ 113, 117 (7th Cir. 1968));
- (C) Display of samples to prospective customers (*Cataphote Corp. v. DeSoto Chemical Coatings, Inc.*, 356 F.2d 24, 27, 148 USPQ 527, 529 (9th Cir. 1966) mod. on other grounds, 358 F.2d 732, 149 USPQ 159 (9th Cir.), cert. denied, 385 U.S. 832 (1966); *Chicopee Mfg. Corp. v. Columbus Fiber Mills Co.*, 165 F.Supp. 307, 323-325, 118 USPQ 53, 65-67 (M.D.Ga. 1958));
- (D) Demonstration of models or prototypes (*General Elec. Co. v. United States*, 206 USPQ 260, 266-67 (Ct. Cl. 1979); *Red Cross Mfg. v. Toro Sales Co.*, 525 F.2d 1135, 1140, 188 USPQ 241, 244-45 (7th Cir. 1975); *Philco Corp. v. Admiral Corp.*, 199 F. Supp. 797, 815-16, 131 USPQ 413, 429-30 (D.Del. 1961)), especially at trade conventions (*InterRoyal Corp. v. Simmons Co.*, 204 USPQ 562, 563-65 (S.D. N.Y. 1979)), and even though no orders are actually obtained (*Monogram Mfg. v. F. & H. Mfg.*, 144 F.2d 412, 62 USPQ 409, 412 (9th Cir. 1944));

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- (E) Use of an invention where an admission fee is charged (In re Josserand, 188 F.2d 486, 491, 89 USPQ 371, 376 (CCPA 1951); Greenewalt v. Stanley, 54 F.2d 195, 12 USPQ 122 (3d Cir. 1931)); and
- (F) Advertising in publicity releases, brochures, and various periodicals (In re Theis, 610 F.2d 786, 792 n.6, 204 USPQ 188, 193 n. 6 (CCPA 1979); 3 InterRoyal Corp. v. Simmons Co., 204 USPQ 562, 564-66 (S.D.N.Y.1979); Akron Brass, Inc. v. Elkhart Brass Mfg., Inc., 353 F.2d 704, 709, 147 USPQ 301, 305 (7th Cir.1965); Tucker Aluminum Prods. v. Grossman, 312 F.2d 393, 394, 136 USPQ 244, 245 (9th Cir. 1963)).

As set forth above, evidences of commercial activities from A through F are all shown in Mr. Holtz declaration. Commercial activity was also disclosed on page 9 of the 1997 Annual Report, wherein "The company's revenues to date consist of sales of CamaraMan systems and various accessories which complement those systems. Revenues for the years ended December 31, 1997, 1996 and 1995 were \$10,799,067, \$9,195,811, and \$3,902,546, respectively".

The 9/18/96 Preliminary Sales Manual describes the CameraManSTUDIO as having a unique proprietary feature called TransitionMacro which allows the creation of real time control sequences. A control sequence can include video effects, audio mix, VCR commands, and camera controls. The TransitionMacro can then be assigned to a single button for playback and can also be edited using a simple GUI editor. A ShotPROFILER records joystick movements. Combining a shot profile with a TransitionMacro will create a very complex transition with an automated camera move. The Preliminary Sales Manual includes price list for the CameraManSTUDIO and its

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accessories. The CameraManSTUDIO was completed and ready for patented as evident from the printout brochures and the 9/18/96 CameraManSTUDIO Preliminary Sales Manual (see the entire manual).

The applicant argues that the 1997 Annual Report was published in 1998 thus can not be used against the filing date of this application. In response to the argument, the 1997 Annual report discloses the sale of the CameraManStudio in 1996 and 1997 which are evidences of commercial activities of the claimed invention. In certain circumstances, references cited to show a universal fact need not be available as prior art before applicant's filing date. In re Wilson, 311 F.2d 266, 135 USPQ 442 (CCPA 1962).

In response to the argument that Exhibit C, the Preliminary Sale Manual, do not include the CameraManSTUDIO software, the software is represented by listed of functions performed by the CameraManSTUDIO, such as the creating of Transition Macro files, the GUI, the HOT Keys, the Shot Profiles, the Shot Directors, etc... The applicant further argues that the Preliminary Sale Manual is confidential and was not disclosed at the trade shows. In response to the argument, the declaration Exhibit A was disclosed at the trade shows. This exhibit A lists substantially the same functions of the CameraManSTUDIO as in the Preliminary Sale Manual.

The applicant further argues that the Preliminary Sale Manual does not discloses the claimed limitations "at least one scripted portion that includes at least one command activated during a predetermined interval in a script that undergoes scrolling for display under control of an operator, and at least one non-scripted portion that include at least one command activated independent of the script". In response to the argument, it has been held that if a product that is offered for sale inherently possesses each of the limitations of

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the claims, then the invention is on sale, whether or not the parties to the transaction recognize that the product possesses the claimed characteristics (*Atlas Powder Co. v. Ireco, Inc.*, 190 F.3d 1342, 1348-49 (Fed. Cir. 1999)). In this case, the limitations appear inherently included in the Exhibit A's disclosed features of Transition Macro files and interactive CameraMan SCRIPT Viewer. Transition Macro and CameraMan Script viewer are time-based commands. The limitation "at least one scripted portion that includes at least one command activated during a predetermined interval in a script that undergoes scrolling for display under control of an operator" appears inherently included in the interactive CameraManSCRIPT Viewer. And the limitation "at least one non-scripted portion that include at least one command activated independent of the script" appears inherently included in the TransitionMacro.

In response to the argument that the PC generated GUI at the 96 trade show can not constitute prior art, Mr. Holtz declaration expressly admitted that, in addition to the GUI, various prototypes and marketing documents (exhibits A, C) were displayed and distributed to the public in various trade shows (the declaration, par 3, 5-15).

In response to the argument that beta testing is not commercial activity, an offer for sale with proposed price to beta tester is commercial activities (see the declaration, par 8, 11, 13-15). Experimental use does not include market testing where the inventor is attempting to gauge consumer demand for his claimed invention. The purpose of such activities is commercial exploitation and not experimentation. In re Smith, 714 F.2d 1127, 1134, 218 USPQ 976, 983 (Fed. Cir. 1983). Further, experimentation to determine product acceptance, i.e., market testing, is typical of a trader's and not an inventor's experiment and is thus not within the area of permitted experimental activity. Smith &

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Davis Mfg. Co. v. Mellon, 58 F. 705, 707 (8th Cir. 1893) Likewise, testing of an invention for the benefit of appeasing a customer, or to conduct “minor tune up” procedures not requiring an inventor’s skills, but rather the skills of a competent technician,” are also not within the exception. In re Theis, 610 F.2d 786, 793, 204 USPQ 188, 193-94 (CCPA 1979).

The applicant further argues that there were no commercial activities during the NAB 97 trade show, citing par. 8 of the declaration. In response to the argument, par 8 clearly states that proposed prices were provided to potential buyers. It should also be noted that the terms “production level” and “beta level” of the CameraManSTUDIO may not necessary be the version of the claim invention as currently recited. The terms “production level” and “beta level” of the CameraManSTUDIO appear directed to the real-time, live television capability version of the CameraManSTUDIO. In addition, price and beta version of the CameraManSTUDIO were offered to the public between April 97 and December 19, 1997 (see the declaration, par11-15). Conditional Sale May Bar a Patent An invention may be deemed to be “on sale” even though the sale was conditional. The fact that the sale is conditioned on buyer satisfaction does not, without more, prove that the sale was for an experimental purpose. Strong v. General Elec. Co., 434 F.2d 1042, 1046, 168 USPQ 8, 12 (5th Cir. 1970).

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

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A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

1. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ba Huynh whose telephone number is (571) 272-4138.

The examiner can normally be reached on Mon - Fri.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Weilun Lo can be reached on (571) 272-4847. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Ba Huynh
Primary Examiner


BA HUYNH
PRIMARY EXAMINER